

Michael Best
Muckrock.com
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

March 10, 2017

Dear Michael Best,

After careful review of your FOIA request, CBP-2017-033499, we have determined that your request is too broad in scope or did not specifically identify the records which you are seeking. **CBP cannot segregate emails by office. We either need a list of specific employees. FOIA is not a search mechanism.** Records must be described in reasonably sufficient detail to enable government employees who are familiar with the subject area to locate records without placing an unreasonable burden upon the agency. For this reason, §5.3(b) of the DHS regulations, 6 C.F.R. Part 5, require that you describe the records you are seeking with as much information as possible to ensure that our search can locate them with a reasonable amount of effort. Whenever possible, a request should include specific information about each record sought, such as the event that would have created the record, a date range for the request, and subject matter of the records. The FOIA does not require an agency to create new records, answer questions posed by requesters, or attempt to interpret a request that does not identify specific records.

This is not a denial of your request for records. Please resubmit your FOIA request, along with a more detailed description of the records being sought, by logging into your existing FOIAOnline account or creating an account at <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov>.

You may contact a FOIA Public Liaison by sending an email via your FOIAonline account or call 202-344-1610. Please notate file number CBP-2017-033499 on any future correspondence to CBP related to this request. Additionally, you have a right to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) which mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

Sharon Deshield
U.S. Customs and Border Protection